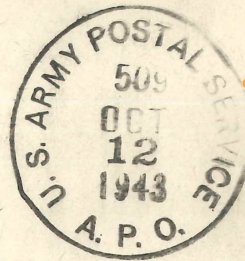


U. S. ARMY
EXAMINER

Lt. F.W. Loops, O-667527
432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.
A.P.O. 520, % Postmaster N.Y.C.



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F.W. Loops, Lt. A.C.

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October 11, 1943

Hello Folks,

Didn't get a chance to write my usual letter yesterday because of flying and stuff, so I'll start one bright & early this morning. For the past week now we have been ~~running~~ ^{running} a school for ourselves, sorta like what we had at Avon. - Complete with ground school! So many new crews have been coming in that they wanted to teach them "our" methods, I guess! - Ahem. - It's a funny thing. - I still feel like a "new" man myself, but so many of our "old" boys have finished up and are on their way home that when I look around, I find I'm as far advanced as they were when I first hit here! - Just should to go you, I guess.

About the ones going home. - most of 'em have been over quite some time and have at last finished all their required missions. Which shows it can be done with God's help and some luck. - While their homes are scattered all over the states, we have given different ones our home addresses - so the possibilities are that if any ever pass thru Washington, they will at least call you on the phone. - So... if you start getting some calls from strange

Lt. + Captain - that's the answer. - Lt. Holsten is one. - He, I know, will look you up if he gets near. - I lived in his tent the first couple of weeks I was in the Sqdn. - The other I can think about is Capt. Bedford. - It was with him that I had my first "mission". He, by the way, - was the pilot that brought the B-26 home whose picture has been in a lot of advertisements - coming back all shot up and the left engine nacelle practically gone. - This song "Coming Home on a Wing + a Prayer" is supposedly written about him and his plane - which is all a lot of propaganda. - For proof: - you can't find a half dozen people who will say a 2-6 has a "wing" to start with! It is notorious for not having one!

Don't know just where I stand yet about a ship and crew. - Think I'm pretty well up along the list for being next, but you can never tell. - At present I'm assigned to no particular crew. Listed as "extra personnel" or something. - Which means I'll fly as either 1st pilot, or copilot ~~which~~ whichever is needed at the particular time. Doesn't make much difference as long as I get all my missions in and get myself in the "going home" category, also. - A little more prestige as first pilot and a helluva lot less responsibility.

as copilot! - But really as it all goes, why worry? -

Also - while I seem to be in the mood to write about "me" - I have hopes of getting me a 1st Lt'cy one of these days, not too far in the future. - You see - there are only so many allowed per Sqdn - and there has to be vacancies before anyone can be stepped up. - Naturally they are stepped up according to seniority both in time in the sqdn & time you've held your commission. - Well, with so many going home - there are vacancies, - and if there will be enough to last till my turn comes around - well, ne, too! - However, again I'm losing no sleep over it as there's nothing I can do about it - why worry? - Rest assured I'll not hesitate to let you know, heh, heh, heh!

Well, now, let's see. - Didn't do much since I last wrote, so can't dwell on that, so guess the rest of this will be just ramblings! -

I did go to town one afternoon. I was looking for some bill-folds to send the men folk, but couldn't find any to suit my taste - so now you'll just have to wait some more till I get the chance again. you bet I was surprised to hear of Alva's marriage! - Poor kid, - guess she didn't have

too much choice - and it was a good way for Lyn + Lolita to insure themselves of a house-keeper - for naturally they must all be living together in the old homestead! Oh, well! -

The bunch of nuts that hang around here are all still screwballs. - As long as we are in a "schooling" period, everyone is sorta setting a mock stage of our cadette area! - Just now we are "bitching" because we weren't given "open post" during the week-end! Once in a while you can see one fellow coming up to another and saluting (a very sloppy one) and getting put at a mock of our "brace" the upper classmen used to put the lower classmen in. - It's a good thing most of this is done in the "club" or somewhere where the enlisted men can't see us. - If they had an idea of how crazy their officers were, they would all desert, I'm sure! - Just imagine their having to fly with us!

I wrote a letter to Paul Hughes sometime ago. - But instead of sending it to Savannah, as previously, I mailed it to his home address, requesting that they forward it. - In answer I got 2 letters, one from his mother and one from his sister! - They said that they were forwarding the letter to him at Shreveport, La.!

His mother said that he had been sent to some sort of an engine school - and then had been ~~to~~ transferred to Barksdale Field in Shreveport. Thus it seems he is an instructor. What he is flying or instructing I don't know, but I should be hearing from him soon. Glad his getting to remain in the States, anyway.

Also got a note from the California Loopers and one from the Woodsons. - Of course I get them from all of you, Sister, Fred & Charles, so don't feel left out! - And from your letters, it sounds as tho one of these days I'm to be swamped with packages! - Hope they don't get here all at one time. - If they are strung out - they are enjoyed individually, besides giving me something to look forward to!

Haven't gotten my prints back yet from the first roll of films I took up, but am expecting them any day now. - I had to work in "thin a man" like Fred would!

Guess I'd better hang up for now and will wait to see what the mail brings forth!
Bye now, and Lots of
Love,
Frank